

Palmer
8/3/78

Conte Aguero

Luis Conte Aguero - Six Volumes - DDO

Volume I - 201-278130

SECRET

Deletions - Sealed envelopes.

- ① St. Dept - 22 June 1949 # 486 - 837.008/6-2249
- ② FBI # 105 - 1598 (Miami) Sept 1960
- ③ State Dept - 4 April 1960 Subject: Conte Aguero.

Secret - Eyes Only

- ④ State Cable # 2708 7 Apr 1960
- ⑤ FBI 14 Apr 1960 # 105 - 86025 (Wash. D.C.)
- ⑥ FBI excerpts - 13 documents
- ⑦ FBI - 9 June 1960 # 105 - 40527 (New York)
- ⑧ FBI - 15 Aug 1960 - Subject: Alianza De Liberacion
- ⑨ FBI - 19 Sept 1960 # 105 - 1598 (Miami) & 14 Sept 1960,
105 - 40527 (N.Y.)
- ⑩ FBI - 20 Dec 1960 # 105 - 86025 (Wash. D.C.)
- ⑪ FBI - 1 July 1960 - Subject: Luis Ernesto Conte Aguero (N.Y.)

① Personality File Request

Luis Conte Aguero - 201-278130 - Radio Commentator

0003451

② Domestic Asset Report - no date

Affiliation: Consejo Revolucionario Cubano.

Subject: Aguero - brash, uncontrollable, rable-rousing
radio announcer & leader of FAR (Frente Anti-Comunista)

③ Cristiano.

Alfaro pays Aguero \$3,000 monthly for his
radio programs. Heads propaganda branch of
Dr Miro's CRC. Future plans are to have him

10145-10304

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Conte Aguero

replaced by a propaganda man with his feet on the ground. He is irresponsible. Man is a liability.

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- ② Undated memo to Pierre Salinger, Presidential Press Secretary. Thom: Richard Helms

FYI, CIA has an operational interest in Dr. Aguero, who is considered one of the outstanding personalities among Cuban exiles. He is a forceful & effective speaker - - - .

- ③ Undated, rough draft memo prepared by Vidal. Writer met with ~~Dr.~~ Aguero on 15 April 1960 at the request of David Phillips, Chief of the Propaganda Section, JMARC project. Phillips desired of establishing contact with Aguero immediately because of his possible value to JMARC in the propaganda field.

Prior to meeting, Vidal checked Aguero's branch file for derogatory reports ~~etc~~ & summarized FBI # 05-86025 alleging Aguero is not a bona-fide refugee but in fact a Castro agent. Additionally, William Pawley ~~submitted~~ a memo of telephone conversation on 7 Apr. 1960 between William Pawley of Miami & L. O'Malley of A.R.A (sic) indicates Pawley feels Aguero may be a counterspy for Castro

100-113452

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Conte Aguerro

④ Nov. 14, 1962

Dispatch to Task Force W. from COS/JMWAVE
Subject: Operational / Gyrose / Amstrut]

Info given to Amstrut 1 by Aguerro

Aguero says about 1 Oct he met with
Pierre Salinger & later in meeting Pres. Kennedy
entered room & talked to them & told Aguerro
he should be confident that U.S. was doing
something on the Cuban Matter. Also said
he had a meeting with Colvin Martin of
the State Dept. Martin was mainly interested
in learning what would happen in Cuba
if Castro were killed. Aguerro reported to
Amstrut 1, he had received word from inside
that an attempt was made on Castro's life
and as a result, 70 persons were arrested.

⑤ Copy of Cable - Gerald Droller 12 May 1960 - Miami.

Please pass following from Bender via
Enclatter & Amwail. "Further check on
Conte Aguerro shows he OK."

0003453

⑥ 18 May 1960

Memo to Chief, Security Support Division

Attn: Mr. Joseph Vidal, CI/Staff

From: Interrogation Research Division

Subject: (Blank) I.R.D # 40176 (presumably Aguerro)

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Congreso (Agüero)

Identifying Info: Subject is 35 yr old, married Cuban national presently residing NYC. Prior to arrival in U.S. was professionally occupied as a writer & radio commentator. Was contacted & debriefed by Joseph Iddal & being considered as a possible PP asset.

Polysgraph arranged on 12 May 1960, test designed to determine subject's attitude toward Communism & if he is clandestinely connected with Castro govt. Subject's responses to test questions do not indicate deliberate attempts at deception.

(D) 2 June 1960

Memo for: Alien Affairs Staff OIS
From: Martha Tharpe
Subject: Luis Conte Agüero - Request for Transfer of
Parole Status from N.Y. to Miami.

Agüero needed in Miami about 15 June 1960 in connection with SMARC project. Plan to use him about 2 mos. & then send him to a LA country for service in SMARC activities.

REF ID: A660003451

(D) Message 16 Sept 1960 From: M. Taylor to: SMASH

In 15 Sept discussion Hqs with Agüero & Ponce, former indicated he an Alvaro Colomos fully informed mission, timing, purpose proposed Nino Diaz op & stated categorically Nino will be

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(S)

Gardner 8/3/28

Conte Aguirre

fighting for Alianza. In view of obvious & political implications feel we must ~~you~~ have Diaz guarantee he will not go in representing Alianza.

H

② Volume II. - Aguirre

Deletions - sealed envelopes

① FBI, 2/2/61 - New York

② " 2/15/61 - Miami

③ State, 5/26/61 - Memo of Conversation

Subj: Views of well-known Cuban exile

④ FBI - 9/15/61 - Wash, D.C. Anti Fidel Castro Activities

① Request for Approval or Investigative Action

6 April 1961

Subject: Luis Ernesto Conte Aguirre

Request Provisional Operational Approval for use in South America & Caribbean area.

② 22 June 1961

Memo for Chief 144/4 from David A. Phillips

Subject: Luis Conte Aguirre

Because of uncertainty of Radio Swan, Phillips requests use of Conte for broadcasts over station WGBS at a salary of \$600 per month. Conte is not a member of CRC but gets along with them.

H

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Conte Agüero

② Volume II.

Deletions - sealed envelopes

① FBI 10/13/61 Revolutionary Council (N.Y.)

② FBI 7/10/62 - # 105-3196 (Miami) Christian
Anti-Communist Front

① 3 Nov 1967

Memo for Record - C. I. Harrison

Subject: Kermitz contact with Conte Agüero

Kermitz tries to persuade Conte to join CRC
as propaganda chief.

② Dispatch 12 Feb. 1962 To: COS/JMWAVE from: Chief, WAVE
Conte selected to produce & voice a 30-minute, daily
program over station WRUL - cost of operation is
\$11,000 monthly. Agreement made in Sept 1961.
Some months later, Conte joined CRC as
propaganda Director but neither he or
his wife are pleased with arrangement.
(Note: resignation accepted 15 Feb.)

③

14 June 1962

Dispatch to Chief: Task Force W from COS/Marina
Radio Americas

JMHOPE program director, William S. Vibalda
to send in monthly reports on Contes broadcasts

H

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Conte Agnews

Volume IV

Deletions - sealed envelopes.

① FBI 26 Feb. 1963 #105-116790

Subj: Sergio Martin Vidal.

② FBI 26 Oct. 1963 Miami Subj: Trials of Liberty

③ FBI 19 Dec 1963 - (Kansas City). Subj: Mario L. Brito,
aka Pedro Xentes, El Inglesio - Information
concerning .

① 15 Feb. 1963 Dispatch to Chief, Special Affairs Staff
from Cos/MWAVE.

Subj: Progress Report for Jan 1963.

Indicates CIA funded publication of Conte
book "Identity" & unknown to CIA, Conte
had back cover changed to carry picture
of Conte & Pres. Kennedy together.

② 18 April 1963 Cable W 20433

6003457

DIR CITE WAVE 7266

Conte reads letter to Pres. Kennedy at a
Cuban Lions Club mtg on 14 April. Letter
calls for Invasion of Cuba by U.S., Cubans in
exile & Latin American armies. Questions
credibility of U.S. assurances communism will
not be permitted to arise in other LA countries.

Conte seems to be taking stronger Anti-U.S.
stand. (Pencilled note: John - Per our discussion:
We are watching this closely. If Conte goes too far
away, we must take action.)

~~SECRET~~

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Conte Agreed

CITE DIR 62418

③ 15 Aug. 1963. D JMWADE from Director. ~~14-10754~~
CIA's only interest in ② Conte is receiving good
one-hour program daily in return monthly payment
\$3,000 made via WRUL.

④ 24 Oct. 1963. IV 46330

To: Director from JMWADE

Conte advises a (FNU) Knowland, helping him
set up appointment with R.F. Kennedy. Conte
D appeal for funds for "Action" by Conte
"Sentinels of Liberty." (Note: Sentinels are individuals
in Cuba who listen to Conte's program & mail
him information on activities in Cuba - all
of which is passed D CIA. for interpretation.)

⑤ 29 Oct. 1963. D: JMWADE from Director. # 78906

RFK Office & Crimmins briefed by Edgins
on purpose of Conte's visit. In both cases,
Conte given a polite hearing but told to
discuss his plans with CIA handlers. Told to
impress on him his end runs in Wash. D.C.
will not succeed in changing U.S. policy being
executed by CIA.

600345B

⑥ 25 Nov. 1963. IV 6770

~~SECRET~~

Conte left for Wash. D.C. on 24 Nov - unauthoriz'd
trip. He was upset that his tribute to
Pres. Kennedy was not broadcast. Info. received

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Conte Aguirre

from AMCOUP-1 that Conte had strongly ~~taken~~ criticized President's IAPA address of 18 Nov. & cut Conte off the air to insure no embarrassing statement made during Presidential mourning. Further check by Wehaldia disclosed between 18 & 22 Nov., Conte had supported small exile group publicizing theme President not implementing liberation promise.

(7) 11 Dec. 1963 Despatch to Chief, Special Affairs Staff from COS/WAVE indicates Conte preoccupied with enlargement of Sentinels "of Liberty" and was away from Florida for extended periods in November (N.Y. & Wash. D.C.)

H

0003459

Vol. II

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Third agency deletions - sealed envelopes

① FBI 7 Apr 1965 #105-8145 (Miami)

Sentinels of Liberty

② FBI 24 June 1965 Chicago - Plot to
Assassinate Premier Fidel Castro during
October Holidays 1965

③ Dept Justice - 1 Nov 1965 Re: Sentinels of Liberty

④ " " - 23 Feb 1966 - Sentinels of Liberty

⑤ FBI - 24 Jan 1967 (Wash. D.C.) Luis Conte Aguirre

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Conte Aguirre

① 2 Sept 1965

Memo for Chief / W/H.

Subject: Meeting with Luis Conte Aguirre.

2 Sept 1965. ~~Care Office, Stephen F.~~

~~Chaconas~~

Indicates Conte continuing to receive \$3000 monthly for radio program.

② Undated memo for Chief / W/H.

Subject: Request for letter of commendation for Conte's role played by Conte in Dom. Rep. in helping bring about resignation of General Imbert was highly effective.

③ Telephoned 28 Dec. 1967 to Chief Station / SWAVE from Chief / W/H.

Conte says he was notified 30 Dec. his broadcasts would be terminated.

ff

Vol. II

0003460

Deletions - sealed envelopes.

① FBI Cable 23 Aug 1974: Subj: Luis Ernesto

Conte Aguirre; Alleged Threat Against the President.

② Diplomatic passport - Luis Conte Aguirre.

① Cable 19 April 1969 1N 39915

Director

TYPIC - AMSTAY

Conte amicably terminated 17 April 1969

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Palmer - 8/3/78

Conte Aguerro

② 12 Feb. 1975

Subject: Whereabouts & Current Activities of Luis Conte Aguerro
Has been a car salesman for Abraham Agency
in Miami. Writes occasionally for "Diario
de las Americas"

ff

8/4/78 - Continued

Additional files -

DCD - 2 files

Loose documents - 1 file

CIA - 1 file

DCD - No notes... 1 document 7 Feb 77

indicating Bernard Barker, attorney wished
to question Conte (among others) to establish
their relationship to CIA in 1960's.

0003461

DCD -

0-25 April 1963 Memo to Chief/Contact Div.

from: Chief, Miami Field Office

Cubans, because of the sorry spectacle of the
CRC, feel they must reorganize & avoid getting
involved in matters conflicting with U.S. policy.
Dr. Ricardo Rafael Sardinas and Juan Amador Rodriguez
wish to discuss new organization with
John Crimmins. Said following individuals
have indicated a desire to cooperate in
effort to unite Cubans in exile.

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Conte Aguirre

Antonio Varona
Dr. Julio Garceran
Dr. Carlos Prio
Dr. Carlos Marquez Sterling
Carlos Devia
Jose Ignacio Rivero
Jose Alvarez Diaz
Paul Menocal
Aureliano Sanchez Brango
Luis Conte Aguirre
Manuel Arteme
Eusebio Nuyal

Pascasio Jimenez
Orlando Cuervo Galano
Jose Ignacio Basco
Mario Cobas Reyes
Hernando Portell Vila
Gustavo Cuervo Reulio
Lomberto Diaz
Santiago Alvarez
Ruben de Leon
General Generoso Campos Marquette
Jacundo Bonares

Dr. Prio stated they wished to include Felipe Pagos, Bufo Lopez Negronet, Paul Chibas & even controversial Manolo Ray as this will increase the chances of defection by members of the Cuban Armed Forces.

H

Loose documents:

Third Agency deletions - 2 sealed envelopes

① FBI 14 Dec 1961 # 105-1998 (Miami)

Subject: Cuban Intelligence Activities in the U.S.

② FBI 4 Jan. 1956 (New York)

Subj: Fidel Alejandro Castro Ruiz

LNU 346.2

③ FBI 13 Feb 1960 - # 105-2053 (Miami)

Subj: Frente Anti-Comunista Cristiano (FAC).

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~~SECRET~~

Conte Aguerro

① Classified Message. 18 March 1961

To: Bell From [Montevideo] IN 3498.

Conte Aguerro speaks to rally in Montevideo.
He is considered best Cuban exile to come to
Montevideo so far. Showed extraordinary
courage in facing hostile crowd 16 March
& message had terrific impact on Uruguayan
population due to his eloquence & excellent
pries.

ff

c1/0A - [C-278130] Luis Ernesto Conte Aguerro

Third agency - one sealed envelope - Quotations
from FBI reports in 201 files and
polygraph report - Office of Security . 1960- Present
2 Dec 1975

Memo

Letter in unsealed envelope dtd 16 Dec 1975

For: C/OPS/OSG/OC

Reference
Subject: Request for [POA] dated 28 Oct 1975

Subject: Luis Conte Aguerro

Gives background info on Conte. No
indication in file if he was [reactivated]. Mentions
threat to President 23 Aug 1974.

Signed Edwal Jones. Dep Dir Security

6003483